

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**TRANSMITTAL  
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	10/666,471
Filing Date	September 19, 2003
First Named Inventor	Pritchard et al.
Art Unit	1761
Examiner Name	Steven L. Weinstein
Attorney Docket Number	AFP-PT009.1

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
OCT 11 2006****ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

Remarks

**OFFICIAL FACSIMILE**

4 PAGES SENT VIA FACSIMILE TO 571-273-8300.  
PLEASE IMMEDIATELY DELIVER TO EXAMINER STEVEN L. WEINSTEIN, GROUP ART UNIT 1761.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

Firm Name	VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C.		
Signature	<i>Ryan W. O'Donnell</i>		
Printed name	Ryan W. O'Donnell		
Date	October 11, 2006	Reg. No.	53,401

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent Via Facsimile (571-273-8300) addressed to: Examiner Steven L. Weinstein, Group Art Unit 1761, on the date shown below:

Signature	<i>Ryan W. O'Donnell</i>		
Typed or printed name	Ryan W. O'Donnell	Date	October 11, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 11 2006

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Pritchard et al.

**Application No.:** 10/666,471**Confirmation No.:** 8870**Filed:** September 19, 2003For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PRODUCING FUSED TUBE ON BAG AND  
BAG PRODUCED THEREBY**Group:** 1761**Examiner:** Steven L. Weinstein**Our File:** AFP-PT009.1**Date:** October 11, 2006**REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111**Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is being timely filed in response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2006.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-67 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner has taken the position that the pending claims are drawn to the following distinct inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121:

**Group I:** claims 1-36 and 47-67, drawn to an apparatus and method for attaching a tube to a bag, classified in class 156, subclass 556;